

Message Text

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10

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 GAC-01 AEC-11 IO-12 NEA-10 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 OMB-01 RSR-01 /151 W
----- 076500

P R 161005 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1214

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS LONDON 05710

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MCAP, UK, FR

SUBJECT: "TIMES" SAYS PARIS CONSIDERS ANGLO- FRENCH
JOINT NUCLEAR FORCE

1. MAY 16 "TIMES" HAS FRONT- PAGE PIECE DATELINED PARIS REPORTING THAT POMPIDOU " WILL EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE CONCERTED USE OF BRITISH AND FRENCH NUCLEAR FORCES FOR EUROPE' S DEFENSE IN TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AND MR. HEATH THIS MONTH". REPORT ATTRIBUTED TO FRENCH OFFICIALS.

2. "TIMES" SAYS POMPIDOU EXPECTED TO RAISE MATTER IN DISCUSSIONS ON US PROPOSALS FOR A NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER. ALTHOUGH FRENCH HAVE CRITICIZED PLAN OUTLINED BY KISSINGER ON APRIL 23, THEY HAVE NEVER OPPOSED THE PRINCIPLE OF A STUDY OF COOPERATION AMONG THE THREE WESTERN NUCLEAR POWERS.

3. " THE BIG ISSUE WAS WHETHER BRITAIN REALLY WANTED AN ANGLO- FRENCH NUCLEAR FORCE, FRENCH OFFICIALS SAID. THE TEST OF BRITAIN' S SINCERITY WAS WHETHER IT WAS PREPARED TO GIVE UP BUYING THE HIGHLY EXPENSIVE
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AMERICAN POSEIDON NUCLEAR MISSILE AND AGREE TO
COOPERATE WITH FRANCE. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM
WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD RAISE NO OBSTACLE."

4. "TIMES" ADDS THAT UNTIL RECENTLY, ANGLO- FRENCH
NUCLEAR COOPERATION PREVENTED BECAUSE OF VIEWS OF
DEBRE, BUT WITH HIS DEPARTURE AND WASHINGTON SUGGESTIONS
THAT THE US MIGHT BE PREPARED TO MODIFY ITS AGREEMENTS
WITH BRITAIN, " THE ROAD NOW APPEARS TO BE OPEN FOR
TOP LEVEL TALKS ON THE ISSUE".

ANNENBERG

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NMAFVVZCZ

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